

Highlights

KINGS CANYON



Photo courtesy of R. Mazur
Just before the break-in.... Don't let this happen to your car - or a park bear!

BEFORE EXPLORING: Review safety advice on page 5. You are on your own in the park — be safe!

GRANT GROVE

GENERAL GRANT TREE:

One of the world's largest living trees. President Coolidge proclaimed it the Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926. It is also a National Shrine, the only living memorial to those who died in war. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved, relatively easy trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

NORTH GROVE LOOP: This lightly traveled, 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) trail provides a close look at the Big Trees and a quiet walk through conifer forest. Starts at lower Grant Tree parking area.

DEAD GIANT LOOP:

Speculate on what killed this sequoia, and enjoy a picturesque view of an historic mill pond. Follow the old road from the lower Grant Tree parking area for about a mile. The trail branches off, creating a 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) round trip.

NEARBY TRAILS & POINTS OF INTEREST

PANORAMIC POINT ROAD:

Until then, hike this steep, narrow road to a High-Sierra vista. Go east through visitor-center parking, left around the meadow, right at the sign "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7km)." Walk 1/4 mile (.4km) up to viewpoint. Trailers/RVs not recommended. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

BUENA VISTA PEAK: Park just south of Kings Canyon Overlook on Generals Highway, 7 miles (11 km) south of Grant Grove. 360° vista of Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Lookout, and High Sierra. 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip.

REDWOOD CANYON: Dirt road, bumpy, not plowed. This, the world's largest sequoia grove, has acres of rejuvenating forest from 40 years of prescribed fires, showing the positive relationship between fire and sequoias. Across Generals Highway from the Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction (7 miles/11.3km south of Grant Grove), turn southwest at Redwood Saddle. Turn right and go 2 miles (3.2km) to parking lot.

BIG BALDY RIDGE: Great views out and down into Redwood Canyon. Two-mile trail (3.2km) to the summit at 8,209 feet (2502m). From Grant Grove, go 8 miles (13km) south on Generals Highway to trailhead. Elevation gain 600 feet (183m); round trip 4 miles (6.4km).

KINGS CANYON OVERLOOK: Look northeast to the High Sierra wilderness at this overlook about 6 miles (9.5km) south of Grant Grove.

REDWOOD MOUNTAIN OVERLOOK: Go 6 miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from Quail Flat junction, and look west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. Studies here proved that sequoia trees need fire to reproduce successfully.

THE KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

Take time to see at least part of this spectacular gorge. Be very careful around the river!

CANYON VIEW: The "U" shape of this canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

KNAPP'S CABIN: During the Roaring '20s, Santa Barbara businessman George Knapp commissioned lavish fishing expeditions here, using this small cabin to store gear. A short walk from a turnout 2 miles (3.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

ROARING RIVER FALLS: A shady 5-minute walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a narrow granite chute. 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the Village road. Paved, relatively accessible.

ZUMWALT MEADOW: This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) trail offers high granite walls, lush meadows, and the winding Kings River. Parking is 4-1/2 miles (7.2 km) east of the Cedar Grove Village road. Purchase a trail guide at the visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

ROAD'S END: Here where the pavement ends are high granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra. No road continues across the Sierra. East of the Village turnoff 5-1/2 miles (8.8 km).



TAKE A HIKE!

MIST FALLS: One of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip. Fairly flat at first; 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles (3.2 km). Park at Road's End. Be careful of slippery rocks by the falls.

DON CECIL TRAIL: The main route into the canyon prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180. It starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village, climbs a north-facing slope past Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up) to good views. Lookout Peak (a 13-mile/21-km round trip with 4000 foot/1220 m elevation gain) has a great panorama. Strenuous; all day.

HOTEL CREEK TRAIL: Starts .2 mile (.3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Climbs through chaparral to forest and views from Cedar Grove Overlook. 5-mile (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Strenuous; allow 3-4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest (see page 2 for *Park or Forest*).

CONVERSE BASIN: Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a huge monarch sequoia that was spared (6 miles north of Grant Grove), or the 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, a tree cut for exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair (2 miles north of Grant Grove).

INDIAN BASIN: A one-mile accessible trail and a one-mile unpaved trail offer a look at how this meadow and forest are recovering after logging a century ago. Take Highway 180 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Trail begins by the host's campsite.

HUME LAKE, formed by a rare, historic, multiple-arch dam, supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) down to Sanger! An easy 2+ 1/2-mile (4 km) trail circles it. Page 9 lists area facilities. Eight miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

BUCK ROCK LOOKOUT: A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views of the High Sierra. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road 14S11 then Forest Road 13S04.